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Letter dated 19 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 19 July 2002, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 12 June 2002 (A/56/984-S/2002/670) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations and to bring to your kind attention the following.

The Greek Cypriot representative has repeated the unfounded allegation, recently voiced by Greek Cypriot authorities in the south, that the number of Turkish troops in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has been increased by the arrival of an additional 5,500 soldiers.

First and foremost, I would like to emphasize that this allegation by the Greek Cypriot side is totally baseless and misleading. In view of the false reports appearing in the Greek Cypriot press, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence issued a statement on 17 June 2002 refuting these allegations and informing the public of the facts. The fact is that soldiers who have completed their military service in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have been replaced periodically in accordance with the system of enlistment of the Turkish Armed Forces. Obviously, an attempt is being made by the Greek Cypriot side to deliberately present this routine procedure as a reinforcement of the Turkish forces on the island, with a view to portraying the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the international arena as the party creating tension.

We are confident that the community of nations will not be misled by this baseless propaganda act by the Greek Cypriot side. We are also certain that the attention of the world community will not be diverted from the ongoing massive militarization campaign by the Greek Cypriot side, which is the real provocation and a threat to security on the island and in the region.

Following the recent acquisition of Russian-made assault helicopters and other weapons, the Greek Cypriot Minister of Defence, Mr. Hasikos, travelled to Athens to review military preparations with the Greek Minister of Defence, Mr. Papandoniou. The Greek Cypriot daily *Fileleftheros* of 18 June 2002 reported that the two officials reviewed the latest phase of the Cyprus issue and held substantial talks on the implementation of the Joint Military Doctrine of Greece and the Greek Cypriot Administration. Mr. Papandoniou was quoted as saying "We took up with Mr. Hasikos a series of issues relating to the implementation of the Joint Military Doctrine. I believe that we are at a very good point because close cooperation exists between the armed forces of the two countries." For his part, Mr. Hasikos also confirmed that the Joint Military Doctrine was fully functional.

It is clear that the Greek Cypriot Administration has no intention of abandoning its hostile and provocative stance against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey. Under the circumstances, it is hard to imagine that the good will and constructive approach being displayed by the Turkish Cypriot side at the current talks between the two parties will be reciprocated by the Greek Cypriot side. Therefore, we would like to call upon the international community to prod the Greek Cypriot leadership into adapting a fresh approach that would be conducive to reconciliation rather than fomenting hostility and tension in the island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus